THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

THIS IS THE STORY OF A LITTLE SCRAGGLY SPRUCE TREE THAT GREW IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLEARING IN THE WOODED VALLEY OF THE SMALL ONES. THE BIG STRAIGHT TREES THAT GREW NEARBY SEEMED TO SHUN HIM AND HE WAS VERY LONESOME...
...TILL ONE DAY CHUB, ONE OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE, CAME BY...
Achoo!
Huh?
Walt Scott
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.
11-30

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

Was it you who sneezed?
No, it was that runty old spruce!
A tree sneezing? I didn't know trees even got sniffles!
I can talk, too!
Never heard of a tree talking!
Most trees don't! I'm different-say, thanks for brushing off that snow! It gets heavy!
Walt Scott
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.
12-1

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

S'pose you could find some moss to put around my roots? They get so cold and my rheumatism is bad!
I'll be back tomorrow with a quilt or something. I must hurry because we're just about finished making toys for Christmas!
12-2
Walt Scott
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.
BACK IN THE TOY SHOP, THE MYSTERY OF THE TALKING TREE IS THE MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION..
Says his roots get cold. I'll take him a blanket or quilt!
Are you real sure you didn't dream this up, Chub?

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

It was **not** a dream! I tell you I talked to the tree and it talked back, just like one of us!
No arguments, **please!** We'll go and see for ourselves!
WHEN THE TOYS WERE FINISHED AND READY FOR ST. NICHOLAS, THE LITTLE PEOPLE WENT TO VISIT THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED...
This is indeed a pleasure! And thanks so much for the quilt--it feels mighty good!
12-3
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

He does talk!
You expected me to bark? Oh, forgive me-- just my little joke!
How come you never grew into a Christmas tree?
No choice in the matter-- but I would like to be able to look around like the other trees!
Still, it's not bad being runty. No one will cut me down and hang popcorn on me -- yet maybe it would be fun to be all lighted up--one last fling, so to speak!
12-4 Copr. 1963 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

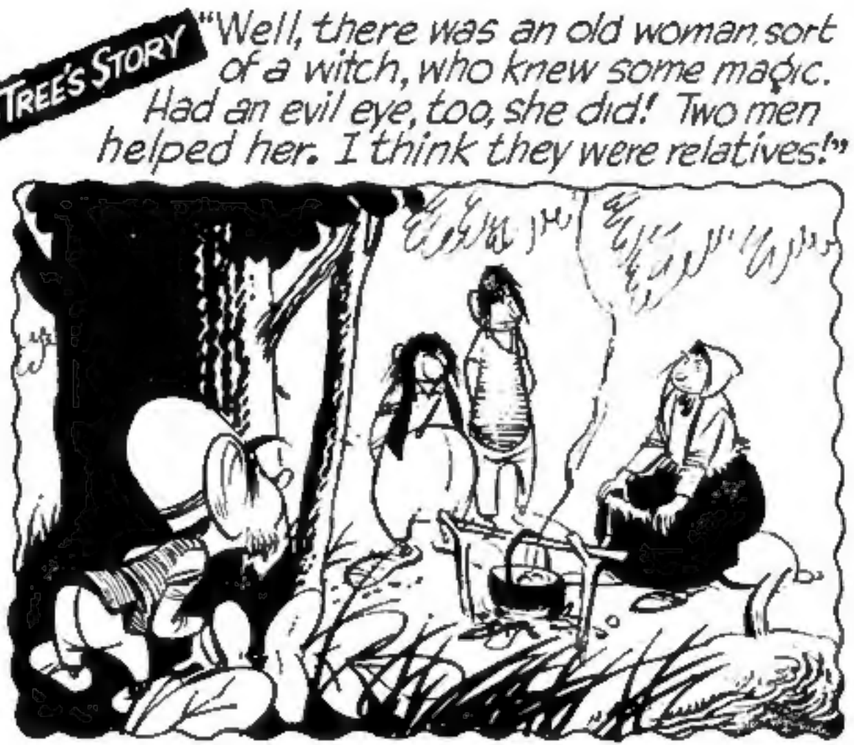
My, that quilt feels good on my old roots. Makes me feel real spruce--oh, dear, there I go again!
I don't see how anyone so scraggly can be so cheerful!
Well, I've been pretty lonesome. Lived here long before Old One came. You see, I wasn't always a spruce tree!
No siree! I was a real live little person just like you! But things weren't so peaceful in the valley as they are now. There was evil here!
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.
12-5

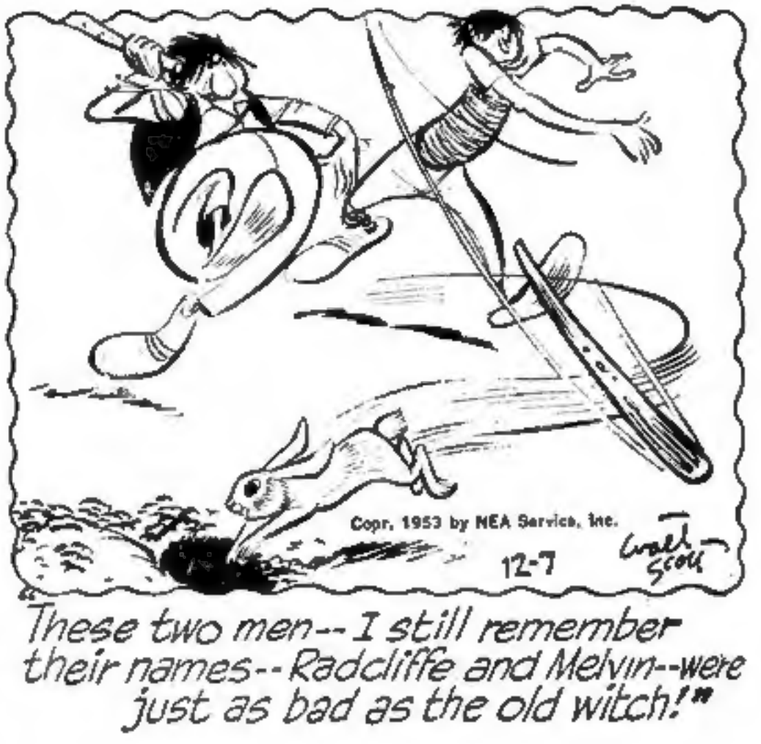
THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

It wasn't at all good here. The meat eaters came! I mean people who killed animals and ate 'em up! Imagine!
Who were these bad ones?


The TREE'S STORY
"Well, there was an old woman, sort of a witch, who knew some magic. Had an evil eye, too, she did! Two men helped her. I think they were relatives!"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12-7
Walt Scott
These two men -- I still remember their names -- Radcliffe and Melvin -- were just as bad as the old witch!"

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

When I found out the Mean Ones were catching and eating the animals -- pull that quilt up, will you, please? -- I got busy and passed the word around.

"First thing you know the animals fled to safer places out of the Valley! Maybe a few mice and moles stayed, but they were safe enough!

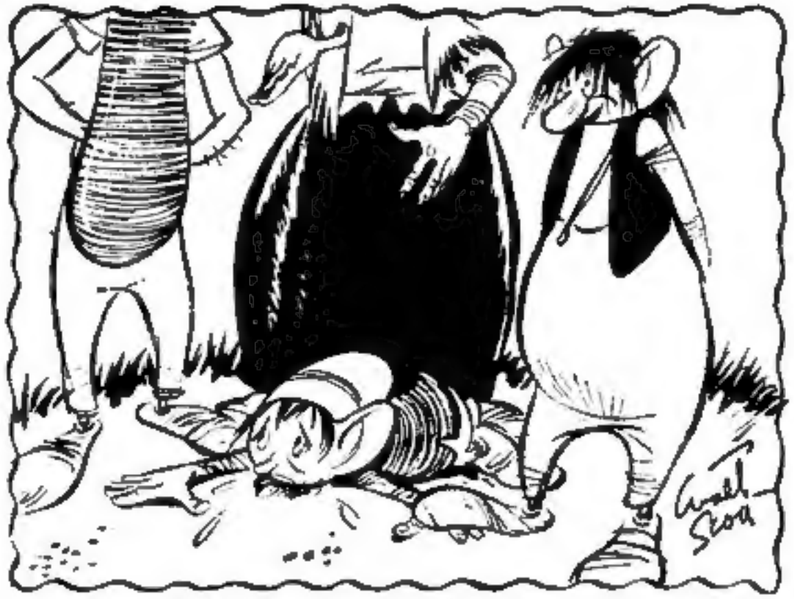
"After awhile the Mean Ones had to live on fish, and soon they tired of this and began to get even meaner! Then they saw me!"
12-8
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

"I didn't think they would eat me", continued the little tree, "but I stayed clear of the Mean Ones just in case. This meant a lot of running on my part because I didn't want the Hag to put her evil eye on me!"



"Now, a little man such as I was can only run **so** long and his short legs give out. That's just what happened..."

"Old evil eye and her boys cornered me! She gave me the **eye**, said some strange words, and **Zingo**--I was a young deer!"

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

"Now, a deer can be eaten", the little tree went on, "but my enemies forgot that a deer can run fast, too. So I ran some more!"

Days went by and the evil trio was getting **real** hungry. Then one day--

--when I was too tired to run another inch--they came. But they were tired, too, and weak from hunger."

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

The old Witch must have been out of her head with hunger because instead of grabbing me, she gave me the eye and maybe she said the wrong words, because...

...“Next thing I knew I was a scraggly spruce tree. There I was, rooted to the spot so to speak.”

“Hunger finally drove the terrible trio out of the Valley, and it was peaceful but awfully quiet and lonesome!”

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

That's the end of my story. The Valley was wonderful--no evil ones--lots of Little People--but I was just a runty little tree!
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Charming Yuletide Picture Story

UNABLE TO HELP THE TINY TREE MAN, THE LITTLE PEOPLE WERE GETTING READY TO GO HOME WHEN SUDDENLY A MIGHTY VOICE BOOMED OUT...
a very sad tale! sad indeed!
Where are you? Come out where we can see you!
12-14
Just a second, friends! I'll fix it so you can see me!
There, by that tree! I see something!

Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Charming Yuletide Picture Story

I sort of help St. Nick with his Christmas chore. You see, I'm the Spirit of Christmas and without me, Christmas presents aren't much good!

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Charming Yuletide Picture Story

"Why, do you know that in one town I went to," said the Spirit, "folks just didn't bother with Christmas at all? It was just a number on a calendar."
Did you help them?
Help them? Indeed I did! Put a few drops of my Christmas Elixir in the well water!
"Never saw folks get so Christmasy all of a sudden!" They handed out presents and invited each other to dinner -- it was wonderful!"
Copr. 1960 by NEA Service, Inc.
12-16

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Charming Yuletide Picture Story

"Another place I went to," the Spirit went on, "the folks all gave each other presents. It **looked** like Christmas..
... but it wasn't!"
I know very well she's had this vase ever since she got married!
Well, I gave him some ties I didn't like! It evens up!
I fixed 'em good! The next year they said "Merry Christmas" and meant it! Gave each other nice things, too! They even went to church!
Wood Scott
12-17
Copr. 1963 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

I've been doing a lot of talking when it seems like this little fellow could use some help!
Oh, could you please help him, Spirit?
Let's see now. Have to take things in order. Before he was a tree-- yes, a deer. Just one drop of this--
OPEN-MOUTHED THE LITTLE PEOPLE SAW THE SCRAGGLY TREE TURN INTO A DEER...
He's a beautiful deer!
And the scraggly spruce is gone!
12-18
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

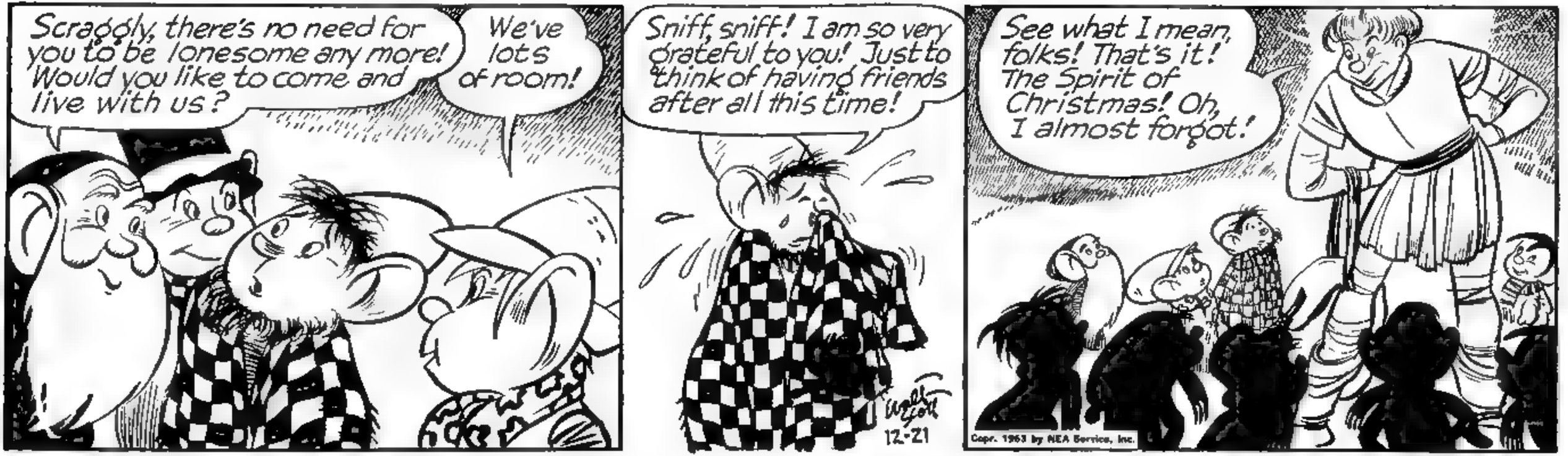
By WALT SCOTT

WHERE ONCE WAS A RUNTY LITTLE SPRUCE TREE, THERE NOW STOOD A LITTLE MAN WITH A RAGGED QUILT ABOUT HIM...

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT


Scraggly, there's no need for you to be lonesome any more! Would you like to come and live with us?
We've lots of room!
Sniff, sniff! I am so very grateful to you! Just to think of having friends after all this time!
12-21
See what I mean, folks! That's it! The Spirit of Christmas! Oh, I almost forgot!
Copr. 1963 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

I almost forgot what I came for! St. Nick wanted me to find you and give you these presents! There's something for all of you and the animals, too!
walt Scott

There you are, lads! Help yourselves! But don't open 'em till Christmas eve!
Aw-w-w! HEY! Look up there!
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc. 12-22

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

MYRIADS OF TINY STARS BEGAN TO FALL OUT OF THE BLACK WINTER SKY...
The Spirit! HE'S GONE!
Must be on my way folks! I've got to be all over the world tonight! Be seein' you
12-23
Copr 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.

THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED

A Christmas Story

By WALT SCOTT

PRESENTS WERE FORGOTTEN AS THEY LOOKED ON THE GLOWING CHRISTMAS TREE MADE OF STARS... AND THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS DRIFTED BACK TO THE LITTLE PEOPLE...
MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!...
Walt Scott
Copr. 1953 by NEA Service, Inc.
12-24

That's it, Editors -- the story of THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED -- bringing real Christmas spirit and entertainment for all of your readers, especially the youngsters.

The LITTLE TREE that TALKED

by Walt Scott

An original Christmas story about THE LITTLE PEOPLE *to delight readers young and old.*

USE THESE ADS TO PROMOTE

NEA's 1953 Christmas Strip

They are scheduled for use prior to, the day of, and shortly after the start of

"The Little Tree That Talked"

You can switch the ads around by making slight changes in the copy.

Release prior to Nov. 30

Watch for
"The Little Tree That Talked"

You'll enjoy seeing and reading this beautifully drawn CHRISTMAS STORY. It's by Walt Scott, nationally known illustrator. Don't miss our holiday present for readers of all ages.

22 Strips

STARTS MONDAY, NOV. 30

Release Monday, Nov. 30

It's no wonder all of the other Little People doubted Chub when he interrupted their Christmas toy work with a strange claim that a tiny spruce tree in the wooded Valley of the Small Ones had spoken to him. The only way to get proof was to go and see for themselves. Be sure to read about the Little People in their Yuletide adventure.

"The Little Tree That Talked"

It's a Christmas strip that will be told in 22 installments.

START READING IT TODAY ON PAGE 00

Release Week of Nov. 30

The Spirit of Christmas is a fanciful character who plays an important part in the story of

"The Little Tree That Talked"

Join the Little People in their toy shop, see the Old Witch, the Mean Ones, birds and beasts galore and a lot of other entertaining things in our exciting Christmas story in strip form.

Turn to Page 00 Right Now

A black and white mat of the folder cover will be sent on request.

NEA

1200 West Third St. **NEA SERVICE, Inc.** Cleveland 13, Ohio

11-10-53

Here's Your 1953 Christmas Story From NEA . . .

"The Little Tree That Talked"

22 Four-Column Releases

Starting Monday, Nov. 30---Ending Thursday, Dec. 24

Featuring *The Little People*---from Walt Scott's Sunday Comic

Walt Scott's lovable characters, THE LITTLE PEOPLE, celebrate their second Christmas with NEA newspapers. Last year, in the story of THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S CHRISTMAS, they brought joy to young and old throughout the nation.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE also delighted millions in NEA's 1953 Easter Story, THE MAGIC EGG. Now they return in a captivating adventure with a scraggly little spruce tree in the Valley of the Small Ones. Your heart will be warmed when the Spirit of Christmas works his wondrous powers on a thoughtless world and the harm wrought by an old witch and the Mean Ones. You'll enjoy the delightful Yuletide spirit of the story's conclusion.

Beautifully drawn, THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED is another of Walt Scott's masterpieces. He won wide acclaim for his art work in Christmas story-strips of other years—"The Story of the Nativity" . . . "A Christmas Carol" . . . "The Songs of Christmas."

ANOTHER EXTRA FEATURE IN YOUR NEA FULL SERVICE

Proofs of all 22 releases of THE LITTLE TREE THAT TALKED are in this folder. Promotion ads appear on the inside back cover. Mats of the strips and ads are in the special mailing envelope.